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Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor

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Welcome to the 22nd edition of *The Park Place Economist*. Throughout my time here at Illinois Wesleyan University, I have always loved the amount of focus on undergraduate research. Students are given opportunities to conduct research in class. But more importantly, there are opportunities to showcase our work through IWU's undergraduate journals: *The Park Place Economist* and the Undergraduate Economic Review. Furthermore, opportunities for students to showcase their research are available at the John Wesley Powell Conference, which is truly fortunate. In the years that this journal has been published, the economics department has moved from a house on Park Place to the Center for Liberal Arts, and now to State Farm Hall. I feel that the emphasis that IWU places on undergraduate research allows for this continued expansion and evolution.

The articles in this year's edition have a wide spread of interesting topics ranging from analysis on crime to an examination of corruption, to the effect of monetary policy. Jonathan Bates examines the effect of geographical distance on crime. Alex Bechtel investigates the effects of loans on bank profitability. Jason Kotecki looks at how home court advantage affects NBA games. Elizabeth Liubicich studies how priority dates affects prices of water right transfers. Odyinye Udenze examines how corruption affects foreign direct investments of developing countries. These are only a few of the wonderful research projects that Wesleyan students are conducting in the field of economics that we showcase in this journal.

This edition of *The Park Place Economist* would not have been possible without the support of many. The staff this year did a wonderful job. In particular, Nikki Castle, the Assistant Editor-in-Chief, was very helpful and put in many hours of work. Additionally, I would like to thank the many article reviewers who helped select and strengthen the papers that we selected. I would also like to thank all of the senior economics majors as the work that they have done over these past four years has motivated me and taught me so much. Next, a thank you to Professor Robert Leekley for his guidance and support. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to Gary Schwartz and Illinois Wesleyan's Printing Services for handling the printing of the journal.

I hope you enjoy the 22nd edition of *The Park Place Economist*.



Mark Giannis
Editor-in-Chief